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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

MEMO

Three Assistant Governors appointed in East Timor

The following summarises a news item in **Suara Pembangunan**, 30 March 1987:

Starting 1 April, East Timor province will have three regional Assistant Governors. The decision was taken by Interior Affairs Minister No 821.25.529, 1986. The first region, Wilayah I is based in Baucau and includes the districts of Baucau, Viqueque, Lautem and Manatuto. The second region, Wilayah II, is based in Ermera and includes the districts of Ermera, Liquica, Aileu and Manufani. The third region, Wilayah III, is based in Maliana and includes the districts of Bobonaro, Amseno, Ainaro and Kovalima.

The three Assistant Governors will be sworn in on 1 April by Governor Mario Carrascalao. They are: Colonel Otto Daryono, currently chairman of the E. Timor Regional Planning Board, as Assistant Governor for Wilayah I; Lietenant-Colonel Hidayat, currently military commander of Ermera, as Assistant Governor for Wilayah II; and Lieutenant-Colonel R. Ginting, currently Assistant II of the E Timor Regional Military Command, as Assistant Governor for Wilayah III.

All three Assistant Governors will occupy these posts concurrently with the posts they already occupy. The offices and staff of the three assistant governors are still under preparation.

Comment

We regard this as a significant decision, imposing what is in effect a new, militarised layer between the governor and his lower administrators at district level. It indicates that Carrascalao or his successor is being made less powerful, and suggests that the army feels the need to use the civilian administration more effectively in the service of operational activities against Fretilin. Whatever the correct conclusions that can be drawn (and ideally, we would need information and comments from contacts inside E Timor on the impact of this latest development), it is a far cry from Indonesian claims that armed resistance in E Timor is now a spent force.

Taken together with an angry outburst by General Murdani in Dili on 21 April accusing the East Timorese of "wasting time day-dreaming about useless things" (**Jakarta Post**, 25 April 1987), it also suggests that the military are thoroughly exasperated with their East Timorese administrators, perhaps not excluding Carrascalao himself.

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